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Academic Work History:

University of Alabama, Department of Religious Studies
Assistant Professor
Fall 2006- Present

University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Department of Philosophy and Religion,
Assistant Professor
Fall 2004 - Spring 2006

Furman University, Department of Religion
Adjunct Instructor
Fall 2003 - Spring 2004

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Religious Studies,
Teaching Fellow
Summer Session II 2002 - Fall 2002

Elon University, Elon, North Carolina, Department of Religion,
Adjunct Instructor
Fall 1999

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Religious Studies,
Teaching Assistant
Spring 1999 - Spring 2003

Education:

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1997-2004
Ph.D., May 2004
Dissertation Title - "Defying Borders: Contemporary Sindhi Hindu Constructions
of Practices and Identifications"

Emory University, 1994-1997
M.Div. Honors, May 1997, Summa Cum Laude
Thesis Title - "Mutable Symbols: The Meanings and Functions of Sikhism's
Panj Kakke"

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1991-1992

Furman University, 1987-1991
B. A., History, June 1991, Summa Cum Laude

Academic Specialization:

Religions of South Asia, primarily Hinduism and Islam

Languages:

Hindi/Urdu, Sanskrit, French (reading)

Books:

Hindu, Sufi, or Sikh: The Contested Practices and Identifications of Sindhi Hindus in India and Beyond. Palgrave, forthcoming (October 2008).

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

"Challenging Definitions: Human Agency, Diverse Religious Practices and the Problems of Boundaries." *Numen* 54:1 (2007): 1-27.

"Critiquing Borders: Teaching About Religions in a Post-colonial World." *Teaching Theology and Religion* 9:4 (2006): 211-220.

Chapters, Encyclopedia Articles, and Other Publications:

"Hinduism." *World Book Encyclopedia.* Chicago: World Book, forthcoming.

"Mahabharata." *World Book Encyclopedia.* Chicago: World Book, forthcoming.

"Ganesh." *World Book Online Reference Center,* forthcoming.

Book review - *In Amma's Healing Room: Gender and Vernacular Islam in South India,* Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger, *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 22:2 (2007), forthcoming.

"Islam in the South." *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, Vol. 1 Religion.* Edited by Samuel S. Hill. Chapel Hill: University of Chapel Hill Press, 2006.

"Hinduism." *Encyclopedia of Religion in the South.* Edited by Samuel S. Hill, Charles Lippy, and Charles Reagan Wilson. 2nd edition. Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 2005. 375-376.

"Temples and Beyond: Varieties of Hindu Experiences in the South." *Religion in the Contemporary South: Changes, Continuities, and Contexts.* Edited by Corrie Norman and Don Armentrout. Knoxville: U. of Tennessee Press, 2005. 207-224.

Book review - *America's Alternative Religions,* Timothy Miller, editor, *Religious Studies Review* - April 1997.

"Not Solomon's Temple: Uses of Cathedrals in the Middle Ages." *Furman Humanities Review* 4 (1991): 33-49.

Articles Under Review:

“Recreating Sindh: Formations of Sindhi Hindu Saint Movements in New Contexts,” submitted for *Interpreting the Sindhi World: Essays on Society and History*, edited by Michel Boivin and Matthew A. Cook.

“Liminal Hindus: Disputed Boundaries and Their Impacts on Sindhi Hindus” submitted for *Religious Synergies*, edited by Tazim Kassam.

Articles in process:

“Sikh Gurus, Hindu Deities, and Sufi Masters: Recreating a Regional Heritage in the Context of Atlanta,” under revision for re-submission to the *Journal of the American Academy of Religions*.

“Sustaining Minority Hinduisms: Sindhi and Indo-Caribbean Hindu Communities in Atlanta”

“Hindu Traditions in North America,” under contract with Congressional Quarterly Press for Encyclopedia of Religion in America.

Conference Presentations:

2008 AAR Annual Meeting (upcoming) - “Staying Regional, Turning Global: Dynamics of Globalization in a Contemporary Sindhi Hindu Guru”

2007 AAR Annual Meeting - “Sustaining Minority Hinduisms: Sindhi and Indo-Caribbean Hindu Communities in Atlanta.”

2007 AAR Southeast Region Annual Meeting - invited panelist - “Best Teaching Practices for World Religions Survey Courses”

34th Annual Conference on South Asia, U of Wisconsin - Madison - “Recreating Sindh: Formations of Sindhi Hindu Saint Movements in New Contexts”

2004 AAR Annual Meeting - “Critiquing Borders: Teaching a Post-Colonial World Religions Survey”

2004 AAR Annual Meeting - “‘We are Hindu!’ Secularism, Tolerance, and the Marginalization of Sindhi Hindus”

2003 AAR Annual Meeting - “Hindu, Sikh, and Sufi: Recreating a Regional Heritage in the Context of Atlanta”

31st Annual Conference on South Asia, U of Wisconsin - Madison - “Defying Boundaries: Constructions of Identity and Practices in a Contemporary Sindhi Hindu Sant Movement”

2001 AAR Southeast Region Annual Meeting - “Alternative Constructions: Analyzing Participation in Multiple Ritual Traditions”

2000 NCRSA Annual Meeting - "Which Hinduism? The Development of Hindu Traditions in the Southeastern United States"

1999 AAR Southeast Region Annual Meeting - "Beyond Conflict and Cooperation: Theologies of Festival Participation in South Asia"

1991 National Conference for Undergraduate Research - "Not Solomon's Temple: Uses of Cathedrals in the Middle Ages"

Invited presentations:

Respondent to "Political Religion? Deploying the Sacred in Hitler's Germany" by George Williamson. *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Religion and Conflict*, University of Alabama Symposium, 28 September 2007.

"Basics of Islam" and "Islam and the Variety of Religions in the Region." *The Middle East in the Twenty-First Century* School and University Partners for Educational Renewal (SUPER) Teacher Institute, sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, 26, 27 June 2007.

"Hindus in Atlanta." *Religions of Atlanta* course. Agnes Scott College, 3 April 2007

"Hindu, Sikh, and Sufi: Recreating Sindhi Hindu Practices in North America." Religion in Culture Lunch Series, Department of Religious Studies, University of Alabama, 28 February 2007.

Asian religions at "Culture and Conflict: The Impact of Religion on World History and Geography." Teacher's workshop, Huntsville, Alabama, 23 February 2007.

"Why Do They Believe That?" University of Alabama Crossroads Community Center, 8 November 2006

2004 Religious Synergies Symposium, co-sponsored by Syracuse University and Cornell University - "Liminal Hindus: Sindhi Hindus and the Tensions Between Strict Religious Borders and Inclusive Practices"

Departmental and University Service:

Member, Department of Religious Studies Instructor Search Committee, University of Alabama – Spring 2008

Member, Department of Religious Studies Assessment Committee, University of Alabama - Fall 2007

Chair, Department of Religious Studies Events Committee, University of Alabama Fall 2006 - present

Member, Institutional Review Board committee, University of North Carolina at Pembroke - Fall 2005 - Spring 2006

Other Professional Service:

Lead Scholar, *The Middle East in the Twenty-First Century* School and University Partners for Educational Renewal (SUPER) Teacher Institute, sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation, 26, 27 June 2007.

Steering Committee member, North American Hinduism consultation, American Academy of Religions
December 2006 - present

Chair, History of Religions section, American Academy of Religions / Southeast, Spring 2005 - present

Manuscript / Thesis Referee for Andhra University, India, *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, Longman Publishers

Grants and Awards

2008 Research Grant Committee Award, University of Alabama, funding "South Asia in Alabama: Connections and Complexity"

2001 American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Dissertation Fellow

2001 David L. Boren Graduate International Fellowship (declined)

1999 University Center for International Studies Graduate Summer Research Travel Grant - UNC

1999 Perry Family Summer Research Scholarship - UNC

1997- 2000 Merit Assistantship - UNC

1994-1997 Full Tuition Scholarship - Emory University

1990 induction, Phi Beta Kappa - Furman University